

## NEWSLETTER

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

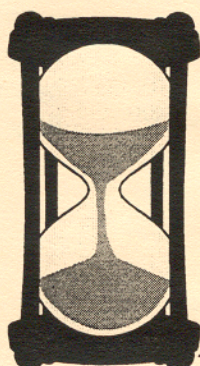
Volume 14 Number 6

November / December 1999

## BEWARE THE MILLENNIUM BUG

Canterbury, England. A D 999—An atmosphere close to panic prevails today throughout Europe as the millennial year 1000 approaches, bringing with it the so-called “Y1K Bug,” a menace which, until recently, hardly anyone had ever heard of. Prophets of doom are warning that the entire fabric of Western Civilization, based as it now is upon monastic computations, could collapse, and there is simply not enough time left to fix the problem.

Just how did this disaster-in-the-making ever arise? Why did no one anticipate that a change from a three-digit to a four-digit year would throw into total disarray all liturgical chants and all metrical verse in which any date is mentioned? Every formulaic hymn, prayer, ceremony, and incantation dealing with dated events will have to be re-written to accommodate three extra syllables. All tabular chronologies with three-space year columns, maintained for generations by scribes using carefully hand-ruled lines on vellum sheets, will now have to be converted to four-space columns, at enormous cost. In the meantime, the validity of every official event, from baptisms to burials, from confirmations to coronations, may be called into question.



“We should have seen it coming,” says Brother Cedric of St Michael’s Abbey, here in Canterbury. “What worries me most is that *thousand* contains the word *thou*, which occurs in nearly all our prayers, and of course always refers to God. Using it now in the name of the year will seem almost blasphemous, and is bound to cause terrible confusion. Of course, we could always use Latin, but that might be even worse—the Latin word for ‘thousand’ is ‘mille’ which is the same as the Latin for ‘mile.’ We won’t know whether we’re talking about time or distance!” Stonemasons are already reported threatening to demand a proportional pay increase for having to carve an extra numeral in all dates on tombstones, cornerstones, and monuments.

Together with its inevitable ripple effects, this alone could plunge the hitherto stable medieval economy into chaos. A conference of clerics has been called at Winchester to discuss the entire issue, but doomsayers are convinced that the matter is now one of personal survival. Many families, in expectation of the worst, are stocking up on holy water and indulgences.

-- anonymous, from the WWW  
-- reprinted from the Hitchhiker,  
the New Mexico State Library newsletter



## SUMMER READING 2000

Summer reading 2000 will be called "It's About Time! A Reading Program of Kentucky's Public Libraries." It is a millennium theme featuring the many aspects of time. Libraries will be sponsoring programs on history, including local, state, and family history as well as Kentucky folk life. Time-travel and futurism will be potential focuses, and some libraries will be scheduling science programs. All in all, "It's About Time!" is another broad theme with unlimited programming possibilities.

Librarians will be invited to participate in summer reading workshops to be held at the beautiful new Kentucky History Center in Frankfort on March 7, 8, and 9. The updated workshop format will feature:

- Presentations by Kentucky children's librarians
- Tours of Kentucky History Center exhibits
- Insider tours of Kentucky History Center which will be of special interest to librarians
- Visits to Paul Sawyer Public Library
- Book exhibit
- Talk tables
- Swap-and-shop tables

Presentations by librarians will last for 45 minutes each and will be scheduled continuously for the duration of the three days. It will be possible for a participant to arrive early in the morning, stay all day, and hear all the presentations. For those with greater distance to travel, it will be possible to arrive to hear presentations in the early afternoon of March 7 or 8, spend the night, and hear the last of the presentations the next morning before returning home in the afternoon. The new format of the workshops will allow participants to schedule their own training at the most convenient times.

Carol Baughman, Children and Youth Services Consultant at Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, has expressed concern that making the trip to Frankfort will be a hardship for some librarians. She feels the effort to come will be worthwhile because the format of the workshops will allow for better quality training than was possible with the mobile workshops of recent years. She also believes the History Center exhibits and staff will offer much inspiration for thematic programs. Carol also anticipates that having librarians from throughout the state together in Frankfort will allow a greater exchange of information about summer reading experiences and library practice in general.

In mid-January, Carol will be sending librarians detailed information about the workshop schedule and registration and about lodging which has been reserved at the Capital Plaza Holiday Inn.

--submitted by Carol Baughman

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*Serving Kentucky's Need to Know*



An agency of the Education, Arts & Humanities Cabinet





The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) has contracted with the architectural firm of Chrisman, Miller, Woodford, Inc. (CMW) of Lexington to survey 155 public library buildings across

the Commonwealth during the months of November, December, and January. Although KDLA has some basic information concerning each public library building, detailed information concerning condition, need for major repair, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, expandability, parking, staff work space, etc are not known on a state-wide level. The information used in this survey will be used to develop a database from which reports can be created that will help KDLA and public libraries express the need for additional construction funds for library facilities.

The survey form being used by CMW was developed by KDLA and a copy has been mailed to each library being surveyed. *This was for informational purposes only*, so that the local library would understand what the architects would be examining. Todd Ott, from CMW, is the project architect and when possible he will call ahead to let the library know when someone will arrive. Regional Librarians will have information about the schedule and will keep their regions informed via e-mail.

Some libraries have been omitted from this study because of current and pending construction projects, or because they have already completed such a study. KDLA staff will include these libraries in the statewide database, but an on-site visit will not be made.

-- submitted by Sarah Kelley

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives has adopted a new set of minimum standards for public library facilities in Kentucky. The new standards address work-space for staff, parking for the public and technology needs in addition to building space needs. The new minimum standards will be mailed to each library and posted on the KDLA web site shortly.

## TECHNICAL SERVICES NEWS

The technical services department at KDLA is always pleased to get cataloguing questions from libraries. To assist further with those little "oddities" that arise, the *Kentucky Public Library Newsletter* will feature cataloguing tips on a regular basis. To make the information all the more valuable, real questions from real librarians are solicited. Write, call, or e-mail Myra Prewitt at: Box 537, Frankfort, 40602; 502.564.8300, ext 227; [mprewitt@ctr.kdla.state.ky.us](mailto:mprewitt@ctr.kdla.state.ky.us).

**Tip:** The Cataloging Service Bulletin is a quarterly publication from the Library of Congress. Included are AACR2 rule interpretations, policy changes, and a section we all look forward to—Subject Headings of Current Interest. I know many of you have been concerned about the subject heading Stacking chairs—well, worry no more, it can now be subdivided geographically! On a more serious note, reading this publication is a great way to keep up with the changing world of cataloguing as we strive to keep up with our changing world!

Happy cataloguing from Myra Prewitt!



On April 24, 2000, the Library of Congress will be issuing a commemorative postage stamp. From April 25 through May 31, libraries around the country can hold their own ceremonies as second-day issue sites.

Holding a second-day issue event for the commemorative stamp is one of many ways to "Celebrate America's Library and America's Libraries," the theme of ALA's 1999-2000 tip sheet of ideas for promoting libraries and building partnerships. Staff of the Library's Bicentennial Program Office will work directly with local libraries on what is involved in planning for a second-day issue event. They will furnish information and guidance including a timetable, sample press releases, programming ideas and suggestions, and publicity guidelines.

A Fact Sheet for the Library of Congress Commemorative Postage Stamp Second-Day Issue Sites Project is available at [www.loc.gov/bicentennial/factsheet.html](http://www.loc.gov/bicentennial/factsheet.html). Please note that a hypertext link to the Fact Sheet from the Library of Congress web site does not exist. In order to limit access to libraries, the full Fact Sheet URL needs to be entered into the address bar. Libraries will have great flexibility in planning a second-day issue event and the potential is practically limitless! Every library is encouraged to take advantage of this prestigious opportunity to partner with the Library of Congress in this national celebration.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Federal spending on libraries totals only 54 cents per person—less than two postage stamps.

A recent article in *School Library Journal* reported that preliminary data from an ongoing long-term study at the Chicago Public Library revealed that less than 5% of all Internet hits from the 497 public access computers went to explicit sexual sites. And of that 5%, less than 2% originated from computers housed in the children's areas.

The full article may be found on page 17 of the November 1999 issue of *SLJ*.

### GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is offering a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program grant for FY 2000. Twenty million dollars in grants and \$200,000 in loans will be made available to distance learning and telemedicine projects serving rural America. The funding will be provided in three categories: (1) \$13 million for grants; (2) \$130 million for loans; and (3) \$77 million for combination grants and loans.

Applications for grants must be postmarked no later than March 17, 2000. Applications for loans or combination loans and grants have a deadline of September 30, 2000. For further information contact:

Orren E Cameron, Director  
Advanced Services Division  
Telecommunications Program  
Rural Utilities Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington DC 20250-1590



## LIBRARIANS TOP THE LIST

The “charter class” of the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University is now enrolled. The program claiming the highest enrollment figures in KCVU is...[drum roll]...library science! At the beginning of the fall semester, 112 students from 48 counties were enrolled.

## KLTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Kentucky Library Trustee Association (KLTA) met during the KLA fall conference and elected new officers. The complete board is made up of one representative from each region. They are:

James Gugeler, President	Bluegrass South
Helen Shryock, Vice Pres	Bluegrass North
Wayne Adams, Treasurer	Cumberland Valley
John Toelke, Secretary	Northern Kentucky
Frances Bastien	Barren River
Virginia Powell	Buffalo Trace/Gateway
Lucy Wood	FIVCO/Big Sandy
<i>vacant</i>	Green River/Pennyrile
Joyce Manning	Kentuckiana
Billy James	Kentucky River
Jo Murley	Lake Cumberland
Sharon Shanks	Lincoln Trail
Charles Davis	Purchase/Pennyrile

## STATISTIC OF THE DAY

If each Kentucky prisoner were sent to the University of Kentucky instead of prison, the Commonwealth would save \$6,771 per year per prisoner. A year in prison costs \$14,027 and at UK only \$7,256.

## CHECK THESE OUT

Some web sites of interest to librarians include the following:

<http://www.everything2000.com> has links to “everything” about the millennium.

<http://www.backinprint.com> is a “service of the Authors Guild” where authors offer their books for sale to readers.

<http://mycroft.lib.muohio.edu/picbks/contents.html> is a database of 3,600 abstracts of children’s picture books that are indexed by topic, concepts, or skills and that can be searched by keyword.

<http://www.connectforkids.org/> provides a weekly on-line newsletter about all kinds of issues related to children and families.



## WHERE DO YOU RANK?

Another web site of special interest to Kentucky’s public librarians and trustees is linked to Bullitt County Public Library’s homepage, compliments of Library Director Randy Matlow. Check it out directly at: [www.bcplib.org/9798compare/compare.htm](http://www.bcplib.org/9798compare/compare.htm). This site uses the information gathered by KDLA from the 118 public libraries’ Annual Reports and provides ranking, from top to bottom, in every single category covered in the print version, *Statistical Report of Kentucky Public Libraries*. Each library has a copy of the print version, the latest being Fiscal Year 1997-98.



## PARK DISCOUNTS

Did you know about the discounted lodging rates at Kentucky's state parks for government employees? The Department of Parks provides the *Commonwealth Connection* discount program for all public employees—and that includes public library staff. From November 7 through March 31, the rates are:

\$35 plus tax for a lodge room

\$50 for one-bedroom and efficiency cottage

\$70 for two-bedroom cottage

\$85 for three-bedroom cottages

These great rates apply to active and retired county, city, and federal employees, including teachers and school employees. And, at seven selected parks, the deal even includes free continental breakfast.

The *Commonwealth Connection* is an especially good deal this year because state resort parks have been given a facelift thanks to a \$100 million park revitalization program. Guests can also enjoy the comforts of a brand-new lodge at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park north of Paris.

Reservations can be made up to one month in advance. For more information or reservations, call 1.800.255.PARK or visit the web site at [www.kystateparks.com](http://www.kystateparks.com).

## GET READY FOR CENSUS 2000

The Census Bureau has a public access database, the "American FactFinder," that will be the primary vehicle to access Census 2000 data on the web at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). It will be possible to create custom reports and create quick reference and thematic maps, as well as predefined reports, from this database.

## OCLC—WORLD WIDE ACCESS

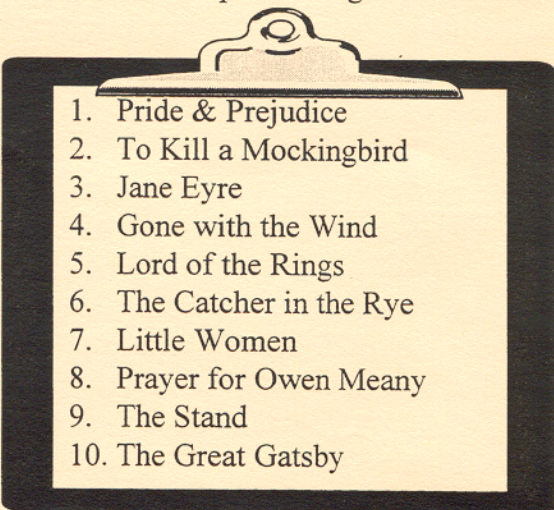
Over 34,000 libraries of all types in 28 countries are members of the very same library network your own local public library has joined via KDLA's facilitation—Online Computer Library Center (OCLC).

And what is the most widely held book by these 34,000+ libraries? *In Search of Excellence* by Tom Peters and Robert Waterman, Jr with 3,971 libraries owning it. A close second, at 3,738, is held by *Megatrends: Ten New Directions Transforming Our Lives* by John Naisbitt. The most popular children's book is *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg with 2,655 holdings.

## ONE MORE LIST

Last year in an article in *Library Journal*, Marc Shaeffer of Brodart Book Services, asked librarians to send him a list of their five favorite novels. Since then he has solicited via other media to add dimension to his findings. The full *100 Favorite Novels of Librarians* can be requested from Brodart by calling 800.233.8467 ext 6570 or by sending an e-mail request to: [sheaffer@brodart.com](mailto:sheaffer@brodart.com).

Here are the top 10 vote getters:

- 
1. *Pride & Prejudice*
  2. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
  3. *Jane Eyre*
  4. *Gone with the Wind*
  5. *Lord of the Rings*
  6. *The Catcher in the Rye*
  7. *Little Women*
  8. *Prayer for Owen Meany*
  9. *The Stand*
  10. *The Great Gatsby*



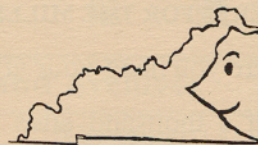
## TWELVE SIGNS YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH OF THE 90'S:

1. You tried to enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with a real deck in years.
3. You now think of 3 espressos as "getting wasted."
4. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
5. Your daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her web site.
6. You e-mail your son in his room to tell him that dinner is ready, he e-mails you back "What's for dinner?"
7. You chat several times a day with a stranger from South Africa, but you haven't spoken to your next door neighbor yet this year.
8. You didn't give your valentine a card this year, but you posted one for your e-mail buddies via a web site.
9. You check the ingredients on a can of chicken noodle soup to see if it contains Echinacea.
10. You check your blow dryer to see if it's Y2K compliant.
11. Your grandmother clogs up your e-mail asking you to send her a JPEG file of your newborn so she can do a screen saver.
12. You pull into your driveway and use the cell phone to see if anyone is home.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY #2:

Americans spend more on potato chips and snack food than on public libraries (\$5.2 billion).

## 'CROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



All across the Commonwealth public libraries and librarians are doing remarkable things that deserve the recognition of their colleagues. This column attempts to highlight some of these. Requests for additional items are continually solicited.

The **Gates Library Initiative** of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation installed 60 servers and 636 workstations in Kentucky's libraries.

The **William B Harlan Memorial Library** (Monroe County) received a \$300 grant from the Tompkinsville Wal-Mart to provide monthly intergenerational programs at area nursing homes. The library story hour will be held in area nursing homes.

The **Hickman County Memorial Library** received a \$600 grant from the Libri Foundation to purchase quality children's books. The Clinton Woman's Club contributed the 2-1 required match with a donation of \$300.

The libraries of **Marshall County** participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Family Week in mid-October. Family Week is a county-wide program in which local businesses, organizations, churches, libraries, etc strive to emphasize families being together, doing things together, interacting at home as a family, etc.

The **Louisville Free Public Library** recently dedicated its new technology for the blind and visually impaired. A single workstation, consisting of a personal computer meeting the requirements to accommodate the software and assistive devices, costs approximately \$5,000 and converts the printed word into speech.



# LIBRARY TRIVIA CORNER

## PROVERBS FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Home is where you hang your @.

A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.

Speak softly and carry a cellular phone.

Pentium wise; pen and paper foolish.

The modem is the message.

The geek shall inherit the earth.

Fax is stranger than fiction.

What boots up must come down.

Windows will never cease.

There's no place like <<http://www.home.com>>

*--adapted from The Unabashed Librarian*

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